Co-operation between India and Thailand

256. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of India and Thailand have decided to co-operate with each other in fighting terrorism; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b). Assistance of friendly countries including Thailand is sought in exchange of information, sharing of intelligence and the need to develop common strategies to counter terrorism. Government of India seek such assistance on a case by case basis depending on the circumstances of each case and the expertise required.

Agreement between Russia and Pakistan

257. DR. BAPU KALDATE :

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the agreement between Russia & Pakistan in the field of Defence & nuclear energy following the recent visit of Russian Foreign Minister to Pakistan; and

(b) if so, what are the implications involved and what is the reaction of the Government with regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) Government have seen reports that during Russian Foreign Minister's visit to Pakistan on April 6-8, 1993 Pakistan and Russia have, inter alia, agreed on creating conditions for cooperation in the military technical field and in the peaceful use of nuclear power in accordance with appropriate international safeguards.

(b) Our apprehensions regarding Pakistan's continuous effort to acquire sophisticated arms and equipment beyond its legitimate defence needs have been conveyed to all concerned including Russian Government. Government constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on India's security and take adequate measures to safeguard it.

SAARC Summit in Dhaka

258. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Summit of SAARC countries was held in Dhaka recently;

(b) if so, the details of the points discussed for implementation during the meeting;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the P.M. had made efforts to mobilise the opinion of other participating countries against Pakistan's abetment and aid for terrorists activities in India; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) Yes. The 7th SAARC Summit was held in Dhaka from April 10-11, 1993.

(b) Summit leaders discussed ways of improving regional cooperation in economic, social, cultural and technical areas, Agreements on a SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) was reached, as was a consensus on the eradication of poverty in South Asia. Protection of environment and improving the welfare of children, disabled persons and youth were some other specific subjects discussed at this meeting. While strongly condemning terrorism and drug trafficking in the region, the Heads of State/Government urged member States who had not yet done so, to make every effort to finalise the enactment of enabling legislation to